

## OCNMS Climate Change Implementation Priorities Sanctuary Advisory Council – Climate Change Working Group

The Climate Change Working Group was tasked with reviewing the OCNMS Climate Change Action Plan and identifying priorities and recommendations for updating and implementing. Below are the Working Group's recommendations for implementing climate-related activities for the next 3-5 years. Recommendations are *italicized in bold* below, with original Action Plan text in black (for reference).

### Strategy CLIM1: CLIMATE-SMART SANCTUARY PROGRAM

Participate in the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries Climate-Smart Sanctuaries program in order to become certified as a climate-smart sanctuary.

**Activity A:** Conduct an audit of OCNMS' carbon footprint and determine what changes are needed to ensure OCNMS meets the minimum green operating standards outlined in the Climate-Smart Sanctuary guidelines. (**First audit completed in 2013**)

**Activity B:** Develop a Climate Change Site Scenario for OCNMS synthesizing the best available information on climate change impacts to present a picture of what the sanctuary might look like in 50 to 100 years. (**Completed in 2013**)

**Activity C:** Work with the AC and IPC to review (and revise if necessary) this Climate Change Action Plan based upon the findings of the Climate Change Site Scenario.

**Activity D:** Brief the AC and IPC on OCNMS' Climate-Smart Sanctuary certification process, and ensure information compiled for Climate Smart Sanctuary certification is widely distributed to OCNMS partners and the public.

***Engage in Office of National Marine Sanctuary revisions to the Climate Smart Certification process. Continue to pursue Climate Smart Certification as the revised standards become finalized. Ensure information compiled for Climate Smart Sanctuary certification is widely distributed to OCNMS partners and the public.***

### Strategy CLIM2: SANCTUARY AS SENTINEL SITE

Work to establish OCNMS as a sentinel site for long-term climate change research and monitoring in the Pacific Northwest.

**Activity A:** Propose to NOAA leadership that OCNMS be identified as a sentinel site for climate change research and monitoring.

***Work with partners to propose to NOAA leadership that OCNMS be designated as a NOAA Sentinel Site for ocean acidification and/or sea level rise.***

**Activity B:** Work with the AC to establish a climate change working group to help 1) develop a climate change research prospectus describing specific climate change research priorities for the sanctuary, and 2) identify marine chemical, physical, and biological indicators of climate change that OCNMS and partners should consider monitoring.

**Activity C:** Provide relevant scientific and technical information to the Washington Department of Ecology to support the State's central climate change information clearinghouse and utilize this clearinghouse to support OCNMS research and planning efforts.

### **Strategy CLIM3: RESILIENT ECOSYSTEMS**

Work with natural resource managers and local communities on the Olympic Peninsula to improve the resiliency of ecosystems in the face of climate change impacts.

**Activity A:** Work with the AC to establish a climate change working group to provide recommendations to ONMS, and to collaborate with tribal, federal, state and local governments on potential joint management responses to climate change impacts.

*Determine what climate-related work (e.g., vulnerability studies, adaptation strategy development, coastal resilience, etc.) has been done, is currently on-going, or is planned for coastal and marine areas in or near the sanctuary. Conduct gap analysis to determine areas where the sanctuary can play an active role in filling gaps. Work with the Advisory Council to prioritize and maximize efficiency of sanctuary efforts.*

**Activity B:** Participate in the state of Washington's integrated climate change response strategy as well as in other regional efforts to develop and understand climate change impacts to natural and cultural resources.

*Support, and actively participate in, a regional conference that includes a theme of climate change vulnerability and adaptation.*

**Activity C:** Host workshops and provide training for OCNMS staff and local communities on the outer coast on planning, mitigating for, and managing climate change impacts.

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### **Strategy CLIM4: COMMUNICATING CLIMATE CHANGE**

Communicate information about climate change and its potential effects on the sanctuary and Washington's outer coast to OCNMS partners and the public.

**Activity A:** Ensure information and data collected by OCNMS on climate change and its effects on the sanctuary are readily available to other resource managers and interested parties.

**Activity B:** Provide local communities and the public with information about potential climate change impacts on the Olympic Coast and local, tribal, state and regional efforts to plan for climate change.

*Utilize Tribal and smaller, local newspapers to share information about the sanctuary and/or climate change-related outreach efforts.*

**Activity C:** Work with tribal communities to develop public outreach materials that convey tribal perspectives on climate change and its potential effects on tribal communities.

**Activity D:** Promote education and outreach elements in climate change research projects that occur within OCNMS.

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**Activity E:** Develop a Climate Literacy education and outreach plan and incorporate it into OCNMS' Ocean Literacy Action Plan.